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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

PUBLIC **AI Index: ASA 21/47/99**

UA 121/99 **Fear for safety / possible "disappearance"** **25 May 1999**

EAST TIMOR **Baltazar Barros, 41**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Baltazar Barros, who was seen being arrested at his home in Fatuhada, Dili, on 21 May 1999. His whereabouts are unknown.

It is believed that the paramilitary group *Aitarak* (Thorn) may have been involved in his arrest.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since early April, paramilitary groups, supported by the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI), have carried out arbitrary detentions, torture and unlawful killings during violent attacks in several towns across East Timor, in an attempt to seek out supporters of independence. At least 18, and possibly many more, people were killed in Liquisa on 6 April when paramilitary units - backed up by the TNI - attacked a church where around 2000 local residents had sought refuge from earlier paramilitary assaults.

Since 17 April at least 18 people and possibly many more are believed to have been killed in Dili by paramilitary units. Despite the signing of a peace agreement on 21 April between the TNI, the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT), the paramilitaries and the political groups that support integration, the situation in Dili remains tense.

According to reports, at least four independence supporters were killed between 9 and 10 May. There have also been reports of attacks on foreign journalists in Dili: supporters of integration threw stones and shot at foreign journalists near the municipal market on 10 May. Supporters of independence and human rights monitors, many of whom remain in hiding, are still at risk of arrest or violent attacks.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia, English or your own language:
-urging the authorities to establish the whereabouts of Baltazar Barros;
-urging the authorities to clarify any charges brought against Baltazar Barros, and urging that he be immediately and unconditionally released if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
-urging that he be given immediate, regular and continuing access to independent legal advice, his family, and a doctor if necessary;
- urging the authorities to prevent the arrest of supporters of independence by either paramilitary or military units;
- calling on the authorities to disarm and disband all paramilitary units.

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Tel: (44)(171) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: uateam@amnesty.org

APPEALS TO (please note that fax tones can be difficult to obtain at certain times):

Minister of Defence and Security
Gen. Wiranto
Menteri Pertahanan dan Keamanan
Jl. Medan Merdeka
Jakarta 10110
Indonesia
Telegrams: **General Wiranto, Jakarta, Indonesia**
Faxes: **+ 62 21 381 4535 / 384 5178**
Salutation: **Dear Minister**

COMMANDER RESORT MILITARY COMMAND (KOREM) 164/WIRADHARMA
(covers East Timor)
Colonel Tono Suratman
Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma
Dili
East Timor, Indonesia
Telegrams: **Colonel Suratman, East Timor, Indonesia**
Fax/Tel: **+ 62 390 321 624**
Salutation: **Dear Colonel Suratman**

COPIES TO:
Chief of Police for East Timor
Col. GM Timbul Silaen
Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili
East Timor

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 July 1999.